

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

May 24, 2006

To: Works Committee

From: Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager, Toronto Water

Subject: Proposed Graffiti Abatement Strategy – “Clean Team” Operations – Anti-Graffiti Coatings

(Wards 04, 05, 06, 14, 20, 22, 27, 36, 43 & 44)

Purpose:

To report on Toronto Water's initiative to address those buildings and structures whose surfaces are prone to graffiti and to identify a limited amount within the existing 2006 Toronto Water Operating Budget to experiment with re-coating problem locations.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

Funding in the amount of \$25,000 is available in the approved 2006 Toronto Water Operating Budget Cost Centre WW4701 for graffiti re-coating on selected Toronto Water facilities.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) approval be given to proceed with the proposed graffiti abatement strategy for Toronto Water locations at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 net of GST;
- (2) Toronto Water to report back the results of the graffiti abatement strategy; and
- (3) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

City Council on September 28, 29 and 30, 2005 adopted the clause without amendment for the “Proposed Graffiti Abatement Strategy – ‘Clean Team’ Operations – Anti-Graffiti Coatings” that recommends each City Division identify surfaces that are prone to graffiti and to participate in a program of re-coating problem locations.

Comments:

Toronto Water has identified a number of facilities (pumping stations, plants, reservoirs) that are prone to graffiti as per Appendix A. Various methods have been used in the past to remove graffiti such as washing with a solvent, sandblasting, slurry mix with concrete and water, chemical products and water blasting. The average cost for graffiti removal is approximately \$1,600.00 per location. Graffiti occurrences vary from location to location ranging from once per year to approximately 5 times per year.

Toronto Water is proposing to test a non-sacrificial coating as described in the Proposed Graffiti Abatement Strategy report approved by City Council at the listed sites. Despite the extra expense over sacrificial coatings, the benefit of a non-sacrificial coating is that it does not have to be re-applied to the surface after each graffiti removal process. It is anticipated that by applying the non-sacrificial coating, graffiti occurrences will be reduced because the paint will not adhere to the protected surface. This deters graffiti artists from applying graffiti to the same location twice as it is simply a waste of their time.

Toronto Water will be evaluating the non-sacrificial coating based on the following criteria:

- initial costs to prepare surface and apply non-sacrificial coating;
- number of occurrences after the application has been applied to the surface;
- method of graffiti removal;
- condition of the surface after graffiti removal;
- length of time before surface needs to have re-application of non-sacrificial coating; and
- if applicable, any other associated costs.

Conclusions:

City Council on September 28, 29 and 30, 2005 adopted the clause without amendment for the “Proposed Graffiti Abatement Strategy – ‘Clean Team’ Operations – Anti-Graffiti Coatings”, requiring each City Division to identify surfaces that are prone to graffiti and to participate in the experiment to re-coat problem locations.

Toronto Water is seeking approval to proceed with the recommended graffiti abatement strategy using a non-sacrificial coating for those locations identified in Appendix A and will report the results of the project to the Works Committee at a later date.

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Lou Di Gironimo
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List of Attachments:

Appendix A – Toronto Water Facilities – Anti Graffiti Target Locations

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Appendix A
Toronto Water Facilities
Anti Graffiti Target Locations

	Location Name	Location Address
1.	F. J. Horgan Water Treatment Plant	201 Copperfield Road (<i>Ward 44</i>)
2.	Humber Treatment Plant	130 The Queensway (<i>Ward 05</i>)
3.	R. C. Harris Water Treatment Plant	2701 Queen Street East (<i>Ward 36</i>)
4.	John Street Pumping Station	28 Rees Street (<i>Ward 20</i>)
5.	Queensway Sewage Pumping Station	0 The Queensway (<i>Ward 06</i>)
6.	Bayview Reservoir Valve House	8127 Bayview Avenue (<i>North of Steeles</i>)
7.	Parkdale Pumping Station	71 The Queensway (<i>Ward 14</i>)
8.	Richview Reservoir Valve House	551 Martin Grove Road (<i>Ward 04</i>)
9.	Rosehill Pumping Station	75 Rosehill Avenue (<i>Ward 27</i>)
10.	St. Clair & Spadina Reservoir	301 St. Clair Avenue West (<i>Ward 22</i>)
11.	WH Johnson Pumping Station	1560 Royal York Road (<i>Ward 04</i>)
12.	Ellesmere Pumping Station	2950 Ellesmere Road (<i>Ward 43</i>)
13.	Sunnyside Sewage Pumping Station	160 Sunnyside Avenue (<i>Ward 14</i>)